(b) and (c) The National Plastic Waste Management Task Force constituted by the Government in September, 1996 has submitted its report in August, 1997. The Task Force has recommended various measures to be adopted for effective management of plastic wastes including the setting up of an autonomous institution to be funded by the industry under the name Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment. The Action Programme suggested by the Task Force includes a package of preventive, promotional and mitigation measures to achieve the objectives. As a follow-up, the Government has set up an Implementation and Monitoring Committee which includes the representation of the industry associations to overview the progress of implementation of the recommendations, action plans suggested by the Task Force and any other issue related to plastic waste management which is brought to the notice of the committee.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Slow growth rate of foodgrains production

1086. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-development of adequate irrigation facilities and lack of any significant breakthrough in seed technology are the main reasons for the slow growth in foodgrains output during the 1990s; and

(b) if so, the steps Government to take to remedy the vulnerability of India's food position in the years to come on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The slow growth in foodgrains production during the nineties is largely attributed to the shift in area from cereal crops to non-foodgrains crops due to better profitability of the latter.

(b) To increase the production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing various Centrally Sponsored Programmes viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas; Accelerated Maize Development Programme; and National Pulses Develpment Project besides providing market and price support. Under these programmes, incentives are provided to farmers for use of seeds of location specific high yielding varieties and improved farm implements. Besides, for effective transfer to technology, field demonstrations on farmers holdings and farmers/farm labourers' trainings are being organized. For efficient use of water, financial assistance is also provided to the farmers for promoting the use of drip/sprinkler irrigation systems.

Further, a Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Scheme is under implementation since 1974-75 with the basic objective of bridging the gap between the potential created and potential utilized and thus increasing the agricultural production from the irrigated commands.

Production of pulses and spices in Maharashtra

1087. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite having potential there is constant low production of pulses and spices in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of year-wise production of these items in the State during the last three years; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to increase the production of pulses and spices in Maharashtra?